

- e1
- (i) the functional splice donor site and the functional splice acceptor site flank a first nucleotide sequence of interest ("NOI");
  - (ii) the functional splice donor site is within the 5' long terminal repeat ("LTR") of the retroviral vector and is upstream of the functional splice acceptor site; and
  - (iii) the retroviral vector is formed as a result of reverse transcription of a retroviral pro-vector, wherein the retroviral pro-vector comprises:
    - (a) a first nucleotide sequence ("NS") containing a splice donor site; and
    - (b) a second NS containing a splice acceptor site; wherein the first NS is at the 3' U3-R region of the retroviral pro-vector and is downstream of the second NS; such that the retroviral vector comprising the first NS containing the functional splice donor site and the second NS containing the functional splice acceptor site is formed as a result of reverse transcription of the retroviral pro-vector such that a copy of the first NS containing the splice donor site at the 3' U3-R region of the retroviral pro-vector is translocated to the 5' LTR of the retroviral vector.

2. (Twice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the retroviral pro-vector comprises a third NS that is upstream of the second NS; wherein the third NS contains a non-functional splice donor site in the retroviral vector.

3. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the retroviral vector further comprises a second NOI; wherein the second NOI is downstream of the functional splice acceptor site.

4. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 3 wherein the retroviral pro-vector comprises the second NOI; wherein the second NOI is upstream of the second NS.

5. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 3 wherein the second NOI, or the expression product thereof, is capable of providing a therapeutic or a diagnostic effect.

6. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the first NOI, or the expression product thereof, is or comprises any one or more of an agent conferring selectability, a viral essential element, or a part thereof, or combinations thereof.

7. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the first NS is at or near to the 3' end of a retroviral pro-vector.

8. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 7 wherein the first NS of the retroviral pro-vector comprises a third NOI; wherein the third NOI is any one or more of a transcriptional control element, a coding sequence, or a part thereof.

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9. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the first NS is a viral NS.

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*Cont*  
10. (Twice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 9 wherein the first NS is an intron or a part thereof.

11. (Twice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 10 wherein the intron is the small t-intron of SV40 virus.

12. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the retroviral pro-vector comprises a retroviral packaging signal; and wherein the second NS is located downstream of the retroviral packaging signal such that splicing is prevented at a primary target site.

13. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the second NS is placed downstream of the first NOI such that the first NOI is expressed at a primary target site.

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14. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the second NS is placed upstream of a multiple cloning site such that one or more additional NOIs may be inserted.

15. (Thrice Amended) A retroviral vector according to claim 1 wherein the second NS is a nucleotide sequence coding for an immunological molecule or a part thereof.